

Hawaii MARINE

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Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland

Island mourns

Left — Michael Lau, 4, reassures his grandmother, Theresa, after placing flowers at the MCB Hawaii Pacific War Memorial, Sunday. Theresa said, “I am honored to be able to come here and pay my respects.” Hundreds came to honor the 26 fallen Marines and one Sailor who perished in the CH-53E helicopter crash Jan. 26.
Below — Photos of those lost adorn flowers left behind in honor of the fallen service members. See page D-1 for the whole story on the memorial.



Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland

Services join forces for capabilities exercise



Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards

Members of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment form a crowd control line and demonstrate the use of various non-lethal weapons that could be launched from the M-16 203 and shotgun.

Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards
Combat Correspondent

The Honolulu Police Department joined with service members aboard MCB Hawaii, recently, to showcase the capabilities of non-lethal weapons to Pacific Marine and Navy fleet commanders.

“Non-lethal weapons are weapons that are explicitly designed and primarily employed to incapacitate personnel and material while minimizing fatalities, permanent injury and, or, undesired damage to property and the environment,” said Navy Ensign Walt Zapf, an anti-terrorism and force protection officer with Commander Pacific Fleet.

There were two portions to the exercise. The first took place at the marina. The mission in the scenario was to provide humanitarian relief.

“What we’re demonstrating is the ability to come in and complete a humanitarian operation. We will be able to protect ourselves, if things get out of hand, and this shows how we can go that further step by using non-lethal weapons,” said Lt. Col. Robert J. Norton, non-lethal weapons officer G-3 anti-terrorism and force protection branch, Marine Forces Pacific.

At the start of the exercise, a Coast Guard ship is moored at the pier and is off-loading supplies to a military convoy. A series of possible aggressor vessels approached the ship and the participants used escalating non-lethal means to defuse the situation.

The first vessel approached and was warned off by the blast of the long-range acoustic device that has the ability to play pre-recorded

See CAPEX, A-6

Afghani village built on Big Island

Bob McElroy
Pohakuloa Training Area PAO

POHAKULOA TRAINING AREA, Hawaii — Marines preparing for deployment to Afghanistan will receive special training in mock Afghan villages that combat engineers from Combat Service Support Group 3 built recently.

There are two villages, one slightly larger than the other.

One is a simple collection of buildings on a single street and includes a well and a village elder’s home surrounded by a picket fence.

The other, larger village comes complete with a marketplace, a mosque, houses, a well and a village elder’s compound.

This is the first time the Marines have built such facilities at Pohakuloa Training Area, according to Maj. Mike Miller, assistant operations officer for 3rd Marines.

The project is the end result of careful planning and advance work done by the combat engineers before they left Kaneohe.

According to Staff Sgt. Richard Arvey, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the combat engineers, they designed the buildings, cut the pieces for each structure and drilled the necessary holes at Kaneohe before they deployed to the Big Island. When they arrived at PTA it became a simple task of assembling the structures with support from CSSG-3 Marines.

The engineers also scraped a main road, and the Marines had a village.

The only structures the engineers didn’t design or prepare in Kaneohe were the market stalls for the village marketplace. Arvey said that two of his NCOs, Sgt. Chris Eastman and Sgt. Nathaniel Campbell designed the stalls and supervised their construction.

Now that the village is complete, the Marines have put it to use training for deployment to Afghanistan.

Miller said that training scenarios began on Jan. 28 and will run to Feb. 14.

“It’s designed to simulate everyday life in Afghanistan,”

See 3/3, A-5

See PTA, A-5

Corporal receives NAM for life saving

Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Combat Correspondent

WAIANAЕ, Hawaii — It seemed like a typical summer day at the beach in Waianae. Friends gathered for a barbecue and shared stories while children played nearby. But the mood quickly turned dim when screams of fear came from children who were in the water. Fortunately, the fast and calculated reaction of a young Marine who took control of the situation changed everything.

Corporal Zhi-Cheng Chen, avionics technician, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 301, had no idea that he would be saving three lives that day — he was merely giving a friend a ride.

“I was driving my friend to see his girlfriend, but ended up staying awhile myself to hang out a bit and get some food,” said



CHEN

See NAM, A-5

3/3 trains Afghan Forces

Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

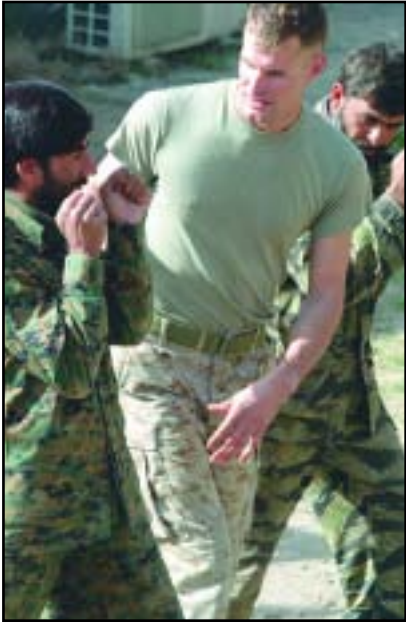
KONAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — “Take a stance!” yelled Marine 2nd Lt. Gary Bechtold to his pupils, a group of Afghan Security Force soldiers. They quickly responded, springing into the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program’s “basic warrior’s stance” next to the perimeter of their base camp.

Bechtold and other Marines and Sailors of “America’s Battalion,” 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment have been training side-by-side with the ASF near the Pakistan border since the battalion arrived.

In the northern province of Konar, Company I, 3/3, have built up a small forward operating base in the heart of the Hindu Kush mountain range. The Marines’ efforts focused on preparing Afghan forces to take on a larger role in the protection of their country from its enemies — al-Qaida and remnants of the Taliban.

Bechtold, a green-belt martial arts instructor, has been training ASF soldiers who have been living and working with the Marines for about a month. The Marines hope to have their Afghan counterparts tan-belt qualified, soon. The tan belt is the first level of the Marines’ mixed martial arts program.

“We’ve been working with the



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Cpl. James Rogers, Company I, 3/3, squad leader and platoon commander of the Afghan Security Forces, evaluates one of his ASF soldier’s technique.

ASF soldiers to train them in military operations in urban terrain, patrolling and MCMAP,” said Bechtold. “We’re teaching them our leadership traits and core values, in addition to some of our basic fighting skills. It’s the same training Marines get.”

“We try to always have an equal number of Marines and ASF soldiers on post and with us on patrol,” said 1st Lt. Justin Bellman, Co. I execu-

tive officer.

Bellman said that there are more than 100 ASF soldiers currently stationed at their base camp to augment his Marines.

“Several of these guys are former Mujahedeen fighters. Many of them have lost family. They’ve had brothers killed or been injured themselves because of them having the courage to work with us in fighting the anti-Afghan forces,” said Bellman. “What we’ve learned from the ASF is that people really do want peace in this area, and they’re willing to let us help them achieve their goals.”

The ASF squads are now divided into Marine-like ranks with Marine squad leaders overseeing their training. The leaders are pleased with how their noncommissioned officers have stepped up to the challenge of integrating with the Afghans.

“We’ve been doing a left-seat, right-seat with them since we got here,” said Bechtold. “My job has been easy. It’s the NCOs who have really run with it. They’re ‘alone and unafraid’ here. The corporals and sergeants have taken ownership of their squads a lot more than if we were doing standard platoon operations.”

The Marines said their time with the ASF has also been eye opening

NEWS BRIEFS

GSA to Close Temporarily

The GSA Global Supply Store at Schofield Barracks will close for inventory Monday through Friday. The GSA Global Supply Store at Hickam AFB will be open during this time to assist you. Any questions can be directed to Mike Martin at 655-0280.

Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series to Feature James Webb

The semi-annual Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series will be held Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Marine Corps Base Hawaii Theatre. The speaker will be best-selling author and former Secretary of the Navy James Webb. The event is open to E-4 and above and their spouses.

Camp Smith Tech Expo

The Camp H.M. Smith Technology Expo will be held Friday in the Pollock Theatre at MARFORPAC Headquarters Bldg. 1, 2nd Floor, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.. All personnel are invited to attend with no charge.

Repaving Project Changes Date

Nimitz Road and the BOQ parking lot will be repaved beginning at the end of February. The project is scheduled to be completed sometime in March. Information on start and completion times and dates, as well as alternate routes, will be published as they become available. For questions or concerns regarding this project, contact Peggy Hunnings at 257-2171, ext.262.

Trenching may cause Traffic Delays

Trenching excavation will be installing electrical conduits will be on the grassy area between the sidewalk from 2512 Lawrence Rd. to the intersection of Manning Street and Lawrence Road. Traffic flow in this area will be affected during the execution of this work. Please allow for traffic delays. Traffic will be ushered into one lane with traffic flag persons on both ends of the construction area from until April 30 during the hours of 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

HI 5¢ Redemption Sites

Automated redemption machines will be stationed in the parking lot across from the Exchange Annex furniture/toy/garden store Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 to 5 p.m., beginning Tuesday. A Camp Smith site will be set up in Lot 11 near the Provost Marshals Office building. The site will be open every other Wednesday, with the next being on Feb. 16 from 12 to 5 p.m. Bring your aluminum cans, glass and plastic beverage containers with "HI 5" markings, empty and uncrushed, to load into the automated machines. Receive a voucher redeemable on the spot.

Hawaii Marine Accepts Letters to the Editor

The *Hawaii Marine* welcomes comments for the "Letters to the Editor" section. Letters should be clear and concise. The *Hawaii Marine* staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number must be provided.

E-Mail: editor@hawaiimarine.com, with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.
Mail: Public Affairs Office
Letters to the Editor
Bldg. 216, Box 63002
MCB Hawaii 96863
Fax: 808-257-2511

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

Hawaii MARINE

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Submit items for the *Hawaii Marine* to PAO no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following addresses:

HAWAII MARINE, Box 63062, Building 216,
MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii 96863
E-MAIL: editor@hawaiimarine.com
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8836

Donations should be given through charities

Lt. Col. Loren D. Barney

Base Inspector

We are receiving numerous inquiries regarding agencies that individuals or groups can send donations to, to assist families of Marines and Sailors who have been killed in action or Marines and Sailors who have been wounded in action. These expressions of support are greatly appreciated. Marine Corps Base Hawaii does not endorse any specific charitable organization and units aboard the base are prohibited from accepting direct donations. However, the list below identifies some charities (not

all-inclusive) that are assisting people in making charitable donations. Please contact any of the below organizations or charitable organization of your choice for more information on making a donation and services they provide to support families of fallen Marines and Sailors. All car wash and similar fundraisers need to be approved by the Base Inspector's Office.

Donations for families of the deceased

•*Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society*
NMCRS, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, 10th Floor, Arlington, VA 22203
For more information visit [www.nmcrs](http://www.nmcrs.org)



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Marines from Headquarters Company, 3rd Marine Regiment take pride Monday while washing cars to raise money for the families of the fallen Marines from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. The money raised will go towards purchasing two bricks for every Marine and Sailor from K-Bay who perished. One brick, engraved with the Marine's name, will be sent to the families of the Marines and the other will be placed at the Pacific War Memorial.

Sgt. Joseph A. Lee

Combat Correspondent

The MCB Hawaii Tax Center is now open and accepting appointments and walk-ins to prepare 2004 tax returns for active duty, reserve and retired service members and their families.

Located in Building 455, next to the 7-Day Store, the Tax Center opened Jan. 24, and will be providing state and federal tax preparation services through April 15, according to the Tax Center Officer-in-Charge, Capt. Jeff R. Liebenguth.

"We are really pushing for military members and their families to utilize our free service to prepare their taxes this year," said Liebenguth. "Filing your taxes through a service like H&R Block may cost anywhere

from \$75 to \$100, but our service is provided at no cost."

Often drawn in by "instant refund" deals offered by civilian tax preparation companies, what many military members do not realize, is that interest is collected from their refund to pay for such services, according to Liebenguth.

you don't have to pay interest with your refund money."

The staff at the Tax Center has completed a rigorous 80-hour course on tax preparation and is qualified to assist service members in dealing with even difficult-to-file returns, added Liebenguth.

"Of course, your individual situation will be taken into account," said Liebenguth. "We have some preparers that are vastly more experienced in tax preparation than others, and if your needs

.org.
•*Armed Services YMCA*
ASYMCA, P.O. Box 29333, Honolulu, HI 96820
For more information visit www.asymca.org.
•*Navy League*
Navy League, P.O. Box 31032, Honolulu, HI 96820-1032, Attn: Bob McDermott
For more information visit www.navyleague.org.
•*Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors*
Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, Inc, National Headquarters, 2001 Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC, 20009
For more information visit www.taps.org.

Donations for wounded Marines or Sailors

•*Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society*
•*Marine Corps League*
Marines Helping Marines, c/o Department of Maryland, P.O. Box 141, Westminster, MD 21158
For more information visit www.mclfoundation.org.
•*Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund*
Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, 825 College Blvd Suite 102, PMB 609, Oceanside, CA 92057
For more information visit www.semperfifund.org.

Scholarships for deceased family members

•*Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society*

See **DONATIONS, A-4**

Tax Center offers up free services

Look on page B-4 and B-5 for more information on getting your taxes done.

Word on the street

What was your reaction to the 1/3 KIA Marines and Sailor death?



Lance Cpl. Karen Chavez
Supply Clerk
MAG-24

"It was a huge tragedy. They should all be greatly honored."



Pfc. Dustin Bowman
Vehicle Operator
Transportation Support Co., CSSG-3

"It was scary and sad. It really shocks me when I think about it."



Lance Cpl. Sean Moleski
Fire Direction Control
Headquarters Battery, 1/12

"I was blown away. I never thought something like this could happen, it hits close to home."



Michael Silva
Machinist
Facilities Department

"My first reaction was I wondered if any Marines I've met since I've been here, had died."



Lance Cpl. William Leffler
Disburser
Headquarters Battalion

"I try to stay numb when something like this happens. It's a terrible loss, but you just gotta try and stay in there."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Teacher Remembers Fallen Marine

Dear Editors,
In early December, we found out that one of my wife's former students was killed in action in Iraq. He was stationed in Hawaii. My wife taught Lance Corporal Jeff Blanton in fourth grade and hadn't really spoken to him since then, but he made an impact on her life. After his funeral here in Atlanta, she wrote a letter to the editor (that was not published), and I thought you might be interested in reading it. I'm attaching it in a word file and also directly attaching it below in case you have concerns about viruses etc. I hope that you appreciate the heart felt and unique viewpoint of a teacher of a fine Marine.

Sincerely,
Alan Powell

As I was going through training to become a teacher eighteen years ago, I was constantly reminded how important my job was. "You will have the opportunity to touch many lives in your career," my graduate professors said. It was with that understanding that made me focus on my education and career. I was sadly reminded recently that touching lives is a two-way street, when I read in the paper about one of my former students, Lance Corporal Jeffery Blanton, and a war on the other side of the world became personal. We can't forget that those young men risking their lives have touched millions of us at home, and I realized that while I had not seen or spoken to Jeff since our adventures in my

Fourth Grade classroom he was and still is a part of my life.

Jeff came into my life in the middle of the school year. Or I should say that I came into his. I was the third teacher in his classroom that year; two others had quit having had enough of a somewhat rambunctious fourth grade class. Jeff's smiling face and mischievous grin welcomed me innocently on my first day and every day after that until the end of the school year. I remember my six foot one inch tall husband walking into my trailer to say "hi" to the children and Jeff staring up from his desk eyes agape saying, "You're tall!" I remember Jeff (and for that matter all of my children's) love of recess and the baseball games we would play when things just got too stressful for 30 kids in a small trailer. Always smiling. Always cheerful. He touched my life. I had to quit teaching due to health problems, but I still remembered my children. When I was feeling down because of my illness, it was Jeff who made me feel better and gave me a chuckle when I remembered how he loved cheese. He used to sit next to my desk when we had lunch in the classroom and look sheepishly at me asking for my cheese without saying a word. I remember his Eddie Haskell like ability to make me feel good about myself when I was down; many times over the years he has unknowingly helped me through hard times because I could remember him saying, "You sure look nice today, Mrs. Powell." While my heart is broken that one of my children is gone, I take solace in the

See **LETTERS, A-4**

Men of Honor

Among the 31 service members killed in the Jan. 26 helicopter crash were 26 Kaneohe Bay-based Marines and one Pearl Harbor-based Sailor.

Farewell Marine

Dedicated to the heroes from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii lost in the helicopter crash near Ar Rutbah, Iraq on January 26, 2005, and in honor of those Marines who will carry on.

By Sandra Lee James
Proud Mother of a K-Bay Marine serving in Iraq

The combat boots are empty and finally they're still,
They're set carefully at attention, they've marched up their last hill.
The rifle, too, is silent now and unwaveringly erected,
Holding up the well-worn helmet, of the Marine it once protected.

One by one his comrades somberly draw near,
Each raising one last salute, unashamed to shed a tear.
A time-honored tribute, dating back to days of old,
As a reverent memorial, a stirring image to behold.

It bears witness to the bond of a brotherhood of men,
The kind who only come along, every now and then.
These men who pass will carry on, they've a mission to complete,
For our Country they will fiercely fight, our enemies they'll defeat.

But in his heart after this, no Marine will be the same,
A hero is now known to him, and bears his buddy's name.
Wherever duty takes him, whatever battles he may fight,
Never will he forget the friend, who gave his life for what is right.

Finally, the bugle sounds, Taps is softly played,
Time to say farewell, and say a prayer, for the sacrifices made.
This day the names of those who died will be added to the List,
They will forever be remembered and will undeniably be missed.

Next time you see a proud Marine, in that uniform he wears,
Know his heart is strong and true, please keep him in your prayers.
He lives by a vow to protect and defend, no matter what the cost,
But to every Marine, it carries a name ... his buddy who was lost.

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1st Lt.Dustin M. Shumney



1st Lt. Travis J. Fuller



Staff Sgt. Brian D. Bland



Sgt. Michael W. Finke Jr.



Cpl. Timothy M. Gibson



Cpl. Richard A. Gilbert Jr.



Cpl. Kyle J. Grimes



Cpl. Stephen P. Johnson



Cpl. Sean P. Kelly



Cpl. Timothy A. Knight



Cpl. James L. Moore



Cpl. Nathaniel K. Moore



Cpl. Nathan A. Schubert



Cpl. Matthew R. Smith



Petty Officer 3rd Class
John D. House



Lance Cpl.
Jonathan E Etterling



Lance Cpl.
Brian C. Hopper



Lance Cpl. Saeed
Jafarkhani-torshizi Jr.



Lance Cpl. Allan Klein



Lance Cpl. Fred L. Maciel



Lance Cpl.
Mourad Ragimov



Lance Cpl.
Rhonald Rairdon



Lance Cpl. Hector Ramos



Lance Cpl. Gael Saintvil



Lance Cpl.
Darrell J. Shumann



Lance Cpl.
Joseph B. Spence



Lance Cpl.
Michael L. Starr

Random vehicle searches help ensure base safety

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

Nearing midnight, a vehicle slowly winds around a corner leading into the base. The driver dims the headlights and cruises toward the gate but instead of being waved in, a military police officer motions him to pull off to the side. Once he stops he is told to open all compartments of the car as well as the hood and trunk and step away from the vehicle.

The individual was not speeding, swerving or acting suspicious. He just happened to come through the gate during a Commanding General's Random Vehicle Inspection.

There is no telling when or where

the CGRVI inspections will occur, but the MPs take them very seriously.

“Not only are we checking for all the information on the car to be updated,” said Staff Sgt. Joe R. Sutter, watch commander, Military Police Company, “we also have a military working dog search for drugs, and also MPs go through the vehicle by hand searching for anything illegal or unusual.”

The full process only takes about five minutes. First, one MP stops the vehicle, gets the vehicle information from the driver, and then takes the driver aside to answer any questions he may have. Next, the dog and handler goes through the vehicle searching for drugs or anything else that triggers a reaction from the dog. The two MPs then do

their search. Once that is complete and the vehicle information is recorded on paper, the driver is free to go on his way. The MPs then prepare themselves to flag over the next vehicle.

“We pull over one out of every three vehicles for inspection,” said Sutter, a Rosemount, Minn. native. “During a two-hour shift, we usually inspect between ten and fifteen vehicles.”

The first member of the inspecting team is the MWD and its handler.

“I go through the vehicle with my dog, Dino,” said Lance Cpl. Justin L. Beneway, military working dog handler, Military Police Company. “He is trained to detect drugs such as marijuana and cocaine.” According to Beneway, if Dino smells anything that may suggest that there are drugs in the vehicle, he signals Beneway by sitting down.

After the dog and handler are finished, the MPs search the vehicle with flashlights. They look under seats, in trunks, and in every compartment in the car to ensure nothing out of the ordinary is hidden anywhere.

“We check for weapons and other types of contraband,” said Lance Cpl. Kevin K. Alvarado, military police officer, Military Police Company. “If we find something illegal, we notify a member of the Criminal Investigations Division and they take care of it.”



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Lance Cpl. Justin Beneway, military working dog handler, PMO, motions with his hand to where he wants military working dog, Dino, to search.

A Marine from CID is a member of the inspection team. That Marine is there on standby — just in case something illegal, mainly drugs, is found in the vehicle.

“There is always a member of CID on scene during the vehicle inspections,” said Investigator Alfred E. Russomano, criminal investigator, Criminal Investigations Division. “If something is found we seize it as evidence and take the suspect in for interrogation.”

According to Beneway, the Marine from CGRVI is there, not to unexpectedly stop someone with the intent on finding something to get them into trouble; he is there for the safety of the residents on base.

“We do look for drugs and check the vehicles information to make sure it is all up to date,” he explained, “but the main reason we conduct the inspection is to insure no one is bringing anything on base that could threaten the safety of the base and its residents.”



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Lance Cpl. Kevin Alvarado, military police officer, Military Police Company, searches through a vehicle for during a Commanding General's Random Vehicle Inspection. The Marines who search vehicles are looking for anything illegal or unusual hidden in the vehicle that may pose a safety threat.

DONATIONS, From A-2

- Marine Corps-Law Enforcement Foundation*
Marine Corps – Law Enforcement Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 37, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046
More information at: www.mc-lef.org.
 - Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation*
Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 3008, Princeton, NJ 08543-3008
For more information visit www.marine-scholars.org.
 - Armed Services YMCA*
 - Freedom Alliance*
Freed Alliance, 22570 Markey Court, Suite 240, Dulles, Virginia 20166
More information is available at www.freedomalliance.org/scholarship.htm.
- Memorial Bricks for the Pacific War Memorial**
- PMWA*
Cost for the brick is \$100.
Pacific War Memorial Association, P.O. Box 1761, Honolulu, HI 96806

For more information visit www.pacificwarmemorial.org.



Pacific War Memorial Brick

- Other Ways to Assist**
- Non-profit organizations listed above and VA Hospitals accept volunteers.
- For more information visit www.va.gov.
- The Fisher House Foundation* accepts frequent flyer miles to assist families of Marines and Sailors.
Fisher House Foundation, Inc., 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 600 Rockville, MD 20852
For more information visit www.fisherhouse.org.
 - America Supports You* is another Web site that lists links to organizations that provide support to the troops.
For more information visit www.dod.mil/americasupportsyousupport/help.html.

LETTERS, From A-2

fact that Jeff will be there to let me know I still look nice in heaven.

I never had the chance to tell Jeff how he has touched my life. Like most people, I got too caught up in this busy world to take a look at those innocent children who have impacted my life. A trendy magnet on your car is an easy way to show your outward support for the men in Iraq an Afghanistan, but the troops overseas don't see your cars. Pick up a pen and paper and write them. Send a care package. Donate phone cards

through Uplink.com or to Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington where our recuperating troops don't have long distance phone privileges to call home without paying for it personally. Demand that our political leaders make prudent use of our forces. And most of all let them know how important they are and how proud you are that they have matured into fine young men. Don't wait for a tragedy to take this war personally. Jeff, I'm proud of you, and you'll always be a part of my life.

Tina Powell

“

q u o t a b l e

“

My eyes are an ocean in which my dreams are reflected.

— Anna M. Ublich



U. S. Air Force Staff Sgt. David McCarrison

An anthropologist from JPAC wet screens excavated dirt during a previous recovery mission to Papua New Guinea.

JPAC teams deploy to two island nations

Press Release

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

HICKAM AFB, Hawaii —Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command teams recently deployed from Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, to conduct recovery and investigative operations in Papua New Guinea and Fiji.

One nine-person JPAC recovery team will continue recovery efforts in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, at a site associated with a 1942 B-25 aircraft loss. The aircraft was last seen flying through a cloudbank over a mountain range and did not re-emerge.

Another JPAC investigation team will conduct operations in the Morobe, Madang, and Northern Provinces of Papua New Guinea. The five-person team will attempt to investigate up to 15 cases. After the completion of the mission in Papua New Guinea, a three-member JPAC team will conduct investigation operations in Suva and Nandi, Fiji.

The multiple sites being investigated correlate to World War II losses. Currently, there is one American still missing from Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, more than 1,800 from the Vietnam War, 120 from the Cold War, more than 8,100 from the Korean War and more than 78,000 service members from World War II.

Crash Fire instructors teach tricks of the trade

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Combat Correspondent

All eyes follow his moves as he walks in front of them. Knowing everyone will be critiquing him and his presentation, his nerves begin to create a slight quiver in his hands, which soon works its way to his legs and throat, causing him to stutter. Once his lecture is complete his classmates clap as they all wait for their instructor’s critical assessment.

“Your information was accurate, but your presentation was shaky. Not only were you fidgety and unconfident, your nervousness was a distraction from the information you were introducing,” his instructor calmly explained.

This was the scenario for 12 Marines and three federal firefighters during one activity of the week-long Fire Instructor I class held in the Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting classroom.

“Basically this class teaches students how to instruct a class,” said Master Sgt. “Striker” R. Thomas, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting. “I teach not only how to organize and prepare information, but also everything from how to set up a classroom to tips on how to not appear nervous in front of a crowd — even if they are.”

According to Thomas, regulations set forth by DoD require firefighters in certain job billets to have specific training in order to be qualified to perform their job. But sometimes it can be very difficult and expensive to send personnel

to receive that training, so the command decided to take a more logical and cost efficient approach. Thomas became the instructor for three different courses: Fire Officer I, Fire Instructor I and Fire Inspector I.

The course Thomas is teaching now involves law, skills, safety, liability and basic instruction. The course is nearly all classroom instruction with a few activities and hands-on participation from the students.

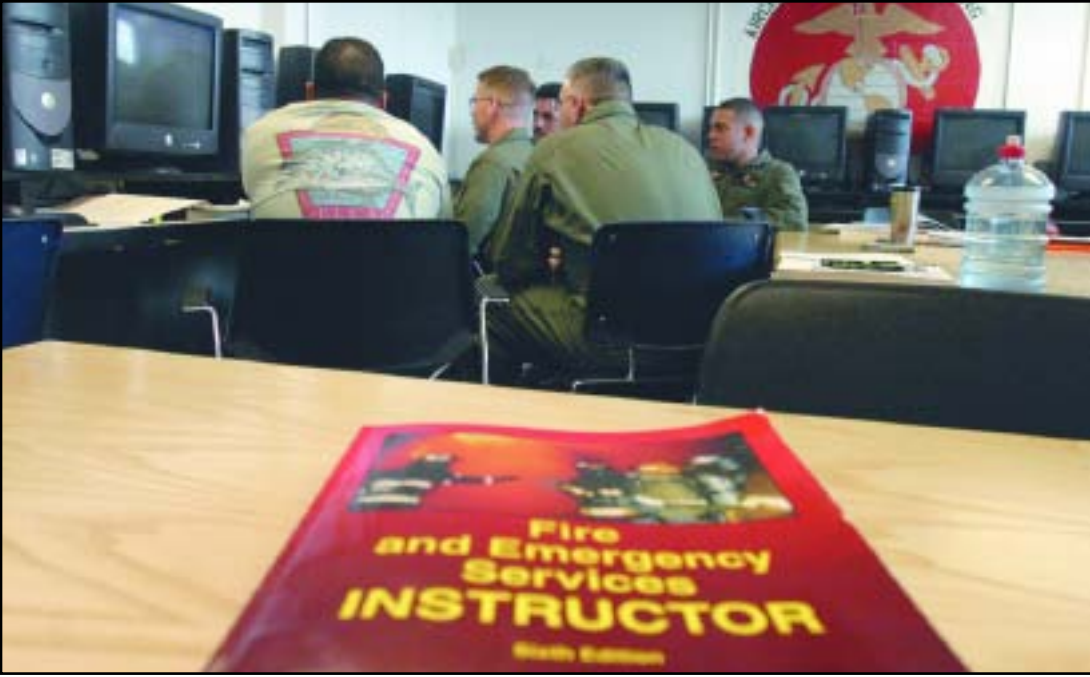
“Because the class is mostly held in one room, I make sure the students are gaining the knowledge that I am teaching by encouraging classroom participation and asking questions,” said the Modesto, Calif. native.

Knowing the instructor is one really beneficial aspect of the program, explained one student. The more comfortable the students are with their instructor, the easier it is for them to open up and grasp everything.

“The setting is more relaxed and easier to learn in,” said Sgt. Rachael R. Richey, assistant section leader, Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting. “Our instructor can be more flexible with our work schedules and with other issues that come up.”

Once the course is complete, the students must take a test to receive their full certification. After they are certified, they are qualified to take on more responsibility at work.

“I think the class is beneficial because I can use the information I have learned at work, at college, and in everyday situations,” explained



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

One group of students in the Fire Instructor I course prepare a Power Point presentation to give to their fellow students. The presentation helps the students with speaking in front of groups, preparing information and creating a presentation that other students could learn from.

Richey, a Union State, Miss. native. “It is a good course for anyone in a social environment.”

Since the program is new there are only three classes offered this year, but six classes are

in the plans for future years.

“Our goal is to get as many people certified as we can,” said Thomas. “Now that we have the capability to pass on this knowledge, we are going to use that to the fullest extent possible.”

PTA, From A-1

Miller said. “Marines will have to do humanitarian assistance missions and seek out insurgents who are among the local population.”

Despite the desire for authenticity in the Afghan village, the Marines did not import native Afghanis to live there; instead, they are relying on their fellow Marines to play the role of the Afghanis.

The role players will include male and female Marines in native garb. The female role players will play an especially critical role because they will provide Marines with the opportunity to learn how to properly search a female detainee.

Some of the role players will also be insurgents who will hide among the villagers and, at certain points during the scenario, will sow dissent and attack the Marines.

One role player, Gunnery Sgt. Melanie Charles, said that the U.S. Marine Corps Warfighter Laboratory in Quantico, Va., provided technical advice and training guidance during the construction of the village and for the scenarios.

NAM, From A-1

the 22-year-old. “I was watching the kids a bit as they played, but couldn’t keep track of all of them.”

After some time, Chen heard distinct screaming coming from the direction of the ocean.

“I looked out and saw three children stranded in the water a good distance out,” said Chen. “The little girl kept screaming for her uncle, and I could tell they were in trouble.”

Chen immediately told the other children to get out of the water and go to their parents, then he jumped into the water and swam to the children in distress.

“Getting out to them wasn’t that hard,” said Chen. “It was trying to swim back in against the current that was the challenge.”

The children were instructed to form a chain so all could be taken in at once. Before reaching shore, a wave hit and tore the four apart which left the children more exhausted, said Chen.

“I realized I had to take them one by one if I wanted to get them all in,”

said Chen. “I brought the girl in first because she was floundering around, and I could tell she was having a lot of trouble keeping herself afloat.”

After the second child was pulled safely to shore, one of the parents ran over to aid Chen in his struggle.

“We swam out together and pulled the last child in who was on a boogie board,” said Chin. “None of the children were injured, but I managed to shred my foot up pretty good on some coral as I swam back and forth.”

Chen admitted that he has had experience saving lives — but never to this degree.

“I was a lifeguard in Oakland, Calif., for a few years before I joined the Marine Corps,” said Chen. “I had pulled kids out of pools before and stuff, but a pool is a lot more controlled environment; this was totally different for me.”

Lance Cpl. Moises Uribe, avionics technician, HMH-301, was the Marine given the ride to Waianae that day last June.

“I’ve known Cpl. Chen for over two and a half years now, and he’s a great Marine,” said Uribe. “He’s

always watching out for everyone else, and he was doing just that, that day out in Waianae.”

Chen was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal Monday morning, as recognition for his heroic act.

“When I found out about what Cpl. Chen had done that day, it didn’t surprise me at all,” said Master Gunnery Sgt. Ted Allen, sergeant major, HMH-301. “He’s the type of Marine that will jump in with both feet to get something done. I love the kid.”

After the rescue occurred that day, friends bandaged up Chen’s foot and then continued with the barbeque.

“It was nice to sit around, eat and laugh with friends after something like that,” admitted Chen. “It was kind of like a happily ever after. I’m just glad everything turned out okay.”

3/3, From A-1

on many levels. On convoys and on patrol, the Afghan forces have proven adept and skillful.

The Marines said that they have been surprised by how perceptive the ASF are. They are able to detect subtle changes in their surroundings, changes that could have been hostile threats. The ASF aren’t just keen battle-tested fighters, though.

“They’re the most courteous people I’ve ever met,” said Davis. “We’ve seen nothing but the good side of the Afghan people by working with them.”

Former Secretary of the Navy and bestselling author James H. Webb Jr. is scheduled to speak to Marines and Sailors, E-4 and above, at the Base Theater Tuesday at 7 p.m. Webb is speaking at no cost, as part of the Pacific War Memorial Lecture Series. Spouses are welcome to attend, but children are not allowed. Guests should be seated by 6:45 p.m.

Hawaii Marines aid tsunami victims

Thai orphanage gets necessities, new look

Gunnery Sgt. Lawrence Torres III
MCB Camp Butler

PATTAYA, Thailand — Seventeen Marines, Sailors and a civilian visited the children at Mercy Ministries Foundation shelter for orphans Jan. 25, to clean the grounds, lay gravel and plant trees as part of a community relations’ project being conducted throughout Thailand during Operation Unified Assistance. The volunteers, assigned to Combined Support Force 536, are participating in an operation where more than 11,000 Marines, Sailors, airmen, soldiers and coast guardsmen are working with international militaries and non-governmental organizations to aid the people of Southeast Asia who were affected when a magnitude 9.0 earthquake, Dec. 26, triggered devastating tsunamis.



Gunnery Sgt. Lawrence Torres III
Lance Cpl. Denis Gousseinov, based in Kaneohe Bay, moves a window at the Mercy Ministries shelter for children here Jan. 24. Gousseinov was among 17 Marines, Sailors and a civilian currently attached to CSF-536 in support of Operation Unified Assistance.

CAPEX, From A-1

phrases. The second possible aggressor vessel ignored the LRAD. The large Coast Guard vessel fired a warning shot across the aggressor vessel’s bow; however, the warning shot wasn’t a bullet — it was a series of sting balls, flash bangs and smoke grenades. One of the three smaller Coast Guard vessels patrolling the area was sent to intercept the possible aggressor vessel and lead it out of the exclusionary zone. The third time the aggressors approached, the patrol vessel lined up and fired a running gear entanglement system in front of the aggressor boat. “The boat passes over the net and it fouls the propeller, rendering it ‘dead-in-the-water,’” said Norton. During the final scenario of the maritime portion, the vessel approached and again they deployed the net system into the water, using a helicopter. That scenario marked the end of the maritime portion of the demonstration. The convoy, which was being loaded with supplies, departed the pier and rolled toward West Field where a security checkpoint and supply distribution center had been set up. As the convoy arrived, a blue — possible aggressor — vehicle followed very closely behind the convoy. The rear high-mobility, multipurpose wheeled vehicle, armed with the Commander Speaker System, a smaller more portable LRAD, attempted to verbally warn off the trailing vehicle, but was unsuccessful.

The Mercy Ministries Foundation shelter is entering its second year. The shelter started when Fred and Dianne Doell, international directors of Christian-based Mercy Ministry in Thailand, started taking in children from the slums, or areas where homeless families set up tarps in trees and live without running water or electricity near hotel trash dumps. “The children we take in are all considered high risk,” said Dianne, who has been visiting the slums for seven years and is currently supporting 10 orphans, ages one to 13. “The children lack basic living needs like clean water and food or are suffering from outright abuse, morally, educationally and socially.” Dianne pointed to a four-year-old boy who has been in the shelter for nearly one year and said that his mother disappeared and he had been sold to about five different people before arriving there. According to Dianne, the children usually come in without wanting to belong or sometimes they are rebellious. “Within a very short space of time, they sing and dance, and get their characters back,” said Dianne. Pointing to one of children, she continued, “That boy, Praeme, fought everything when he got here and now he plays.” The U.S. military started visiting and assisting the Mercy Ministries staff in 2002 during Cobra Gold, an annual military exercise in Thailand, according to Religious Programs Assistant, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class David E. Seigrist assigned to III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group based in Okinawa, Japan. Navy Lt. Judy Malana, who was then chaplain, III MEF, started the visits after finding Mercy Ministries on the Internet. Cpl. Angel A. Huerta, a heavy equipment operator with 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine

Division, currently serving with CSF-536’s Offload Preparation Party, said the shelter reminded him of the Guadalajara, Mexico, a community he lived in when he was four and five years old. “The living conditions here are similar to what I had — a small community of people sticking together as one family,” said Huerta, who helped clean the shelter and wished he could have done more for the children. “This is one of the things I enjoy doing the most — helping those who are less fortunate.” Seigrest said he was in Pattaya three years ago and met a boy named Cop, who is in the shelter now as a 5-year-old. According to Seigrest, Cop was sold to a pimp at the age of two for about 1,500 baht, the equivalent of \$25. An elderly woman collected the same amount of money from the people in the slums, bought Cop, and brought him to the shelter. “I think back to my rough childhood, and it was nothing compared to seeing this,” admitted Sgt. Walter F. Washington, a maintenance floor chief with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd MarDiv. After hearing all of the stories about the children, Washington said, “I couldn’t do that to a dog, man.” The Marines were able to accomplish needed tasks needed at Pattaya, tasks that would have taken the Mercy Ministry staff and volunteers about a month, according to Fred. “This is a big help,” said Fred, who is also the pastor and founder of Victory Family Church. “We never get help like this ... these guys came to work and they are really working hard.” For more information about Operation



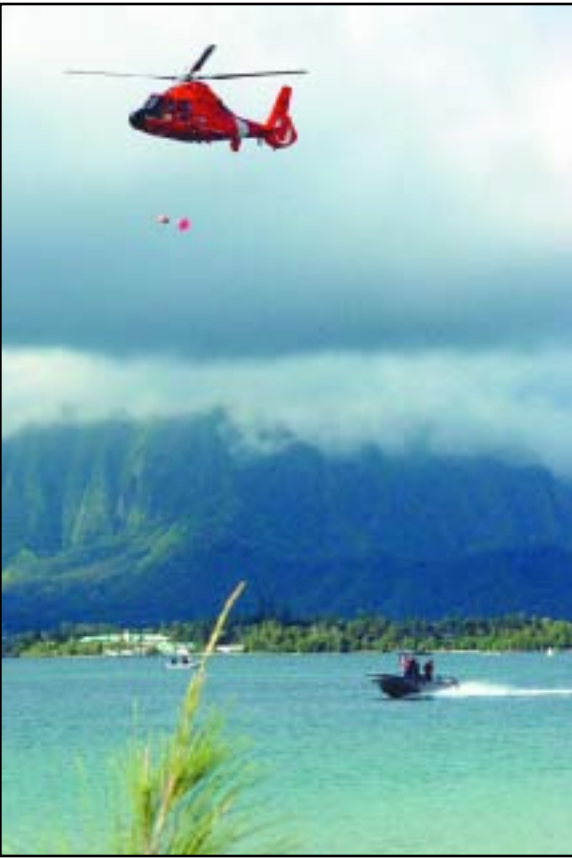
Gunnery Sgt. Lawrence Torres III
Lance Cpl. Rustin L. Tyrone paints a playground set at the Mercy Ministries shelter for children. Tyrone is currently assigned to CSF-536’s off-load preparation party and is an Amphibious Assault Vehicle operator with Combat Assault Company, 3rd Marine Division based at Kaneohe Bay.

Unified Assistance, visit the Web site at www.marines.mil/csf536 or e-mail Gunnery Sgt. Lawrence Torres III at torresl@mcbbutler.usmc.mil.

cessful.

The next step was to fire vehicle non-lethal munitions known as VENOM from the vehicle-mounted Mark-19 at the aggressor vehicle to force it to stop following, but not causing damage to the vehicle or injury to the driver. When the Marines arrived at the security checkpoint they demonstrated the ability to control access to the security checkpoint from vehicles that are non-compliant to verbal commands. “The sentries deploy a spike strip, which flattened the tires and wraps itself in the axle bringing the vehicle to a halt,” explained Norton. “The driver jumped from the car and was very belligerent and non-compliant, the sentries used the X-26 Tazer to subdue him and take him for questioning.” The next scenario involved using a C-130 Hercules. The U.S. Air Force Ravens, an aircraft protection team, demonstrated the uses of the Sound Commander System, X-26 Tazer, beanbag ammunition for the shotgun, and slippery foam to control an angry mob that was approaching the aircraft. In the final scenario, service members allowed the villagers of the town to access the supply point to get much needed food, water, and other sustainment items. When the sentries at the gate halted traffic for a shift change, the situation quickly escalated and rumors were spread that no one else would receive aide. Villagers panicked and forced their way to the entrance, but a quick-reac-

tion-team of approximately 40 Marines from 2nd Battalion 3rd Marine Regiment, along with members of HPD dressed in full riot gear, showed up to help defuse the situation. In the final scenario, state-of-the-art technology was brought into play as two unmanned vehicles rolled onto the field, each capable of firing an assortment of non-lethal weapons of their own. “These measures will allow us to use non-lethal means to take control of a lot of situations that do not warrant deadly force.” Norton explained. Norton went on to say that the benefits of demonstrations such as these are limitless — not only for the VIPs viewing them, but also for the troops participating in them. He wasn’t the only one who agreed that the exercise benefited the troops. “We do a lot of training with the riot gear and things like that, but it was really an eye-opener for us — seeing how the Marines and Army train,” admitted Air Force Staff Sgt. Reglio Ponce, assigned to the Raven Aircraft Security Team from Hickam Air Force Base. “Plus, this was very beneficial for us because we don’t normally deploy with non-lethal weapons, and ninety percent of the countries we visit don’t allow us to take the weapons off the aircraft. With X-26 Tazer and beanbag rounds for the shotgun, it will allow us to defuse situations, should they arise, while greatly decreasing the possibility of serious injury and death.”



Sgt Jereme L. Edwards
During a non-lethal capabilities exercise, an “aggressor” attempts to infiltrate a Coast Guard ship. On their third attempt a helo dropped a running gear entanglement system in front of the boat.